

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**56th Legislature, 1st Session, 2023**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>HM44</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Lujan/Herrera/Lara/Garratt/Sariñana</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.225047.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>HEC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Community Schools Funding Task Force</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Condon</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>3/7/2023</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

---

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

House Memorial 44 (HM44) requests the Public Education Department (PED) to convene a task force to analyze and evaluate:

- Adequacy of current grant funding to hire a full-time school-based community schools coordinator and support high-quality implementation of the community schools strategy;
- Effect of the lack of recurring state funding on the sustainability of community schools initiatives;
- Need for indicators of high-quality community schools, including implementation of a certification program for eligibility for annual funding; and
- Cost and return on investment to the state of supporting and funding community schools.

Additionally, the task force is requested to partner with the Coalition for Community Schools to develop a comprehensive set of criteria by which applicant public schools may be certified as high-quality community schools and eligible for recurring funding.

Lastly, the task force is requested to partner with the Coalition for Community Schools to develop a community schools strategic plan that:

- Includes one- to two-year goals, five- to ten-year goals and short- and long-term action steps to achieve those goals;
- Identifies whether action is required by the Legislature, the Public Education Department or any other public body; and
- Includes detailed cost estimates accompanied by agreed-upon research-based indicators of high-quality implementation of the community schools strategy.

HM44 requests an initial report be presented to the Legislature by December 1, 2023, and a final report of the task force be provided to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2024.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFCS) includes a \$10 million appropriation from the public education reform fund (PERF) to PED for community school and family engagement initiatives. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2024 from this appropriation shall revert to the community schools fund.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

**Task Force Members.** HM44 outlines ten members for the task force participants as follows:

- The Secretary of PED or the Secretary's designee, who will chair the task force;
- Three representatives from the Coalition for Community Schools;
- Two staff members of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), appointed by the chair of LESC;
- Two staff members of the Legislative Finance Committee appointed by the chair of LFC; and
- Two members of the Indian Education Advisory Council appointed by the assistant Secretary for Indian Education.

HM44 allows vacancies on the task force to be filled by the original appointing authority and the chair of the task force may request the appointing authority to replace a task force member, if needed.

**Community Schools Strategy.** A community school is a locally driven school transformation strategy that promotes child well-being. Community schools leverage and coordinate the resources of the whole community to build a thriving school for students, families, school staff, including educators, and community partners. The community schools strategy is a set of best practices based in evidence, data and research that guides the implementation of whole school transformation.

In 2021, the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) published a [report](#) on community schools as an evidence-based approach that can help the state improve the educational success of New Mexico children growing up in poverty, and emphasizes that national research finds that, when well-designed and fully implemented, community schools increase student success and reduce gaps in both opportunity and achievement. The Coalition for Community Schools released a research brief that likewise concluded that when community schools are well thought-out and purposefully implemented, many benefits can be measured:

- Student learning improves;
- Student attendance improves;
- Students show improved behavior;
- Parent and family participation—in their children's education and in the school—increases; and
- Families have more opportunities and support in caring for and helping to educate their children and in contributing to their community.

A holistic view of the culture of community schools and the tools they utilize can help identify the environments that most successfully support students, reduce absenteeism, and close achievement gaps. Research and findings from community school programs across the nation continue to show a positive return on investment:

- A return on investment study by The Finance Project and the National Center for Community Schools shows a social return of \$10-\$14 for each dollar invested in community schools.
- Students in high-implementing community schools in Tulsa had math scores 32 points higher than those in other Tulsa schools; their reading scores were 19 points higher.
- Evaluators of Baltimore’s community school initiative found that experienced community schools had significantly better attendance and lower chronic absence than non-community schools. From 2009 to 2014, experienced community schools increased their average attendance rates by 1.6 percent, compared to a 1.8 percent decrease for non-community schools, and decreased early chronic absence rates by 4.1 percent, compared to non-community schools, where early chronic absence increased by 3.6 percent.
- A [case study](#) in New York City (NYC) followed the first three years of NYC’s community schools initiative and found chronic absenteeism was 7.3 percentage points lower in community elementary and middle schools, and 8.3 points lower in high schools. Disciplinary incidents also declined sharply with the performance of students in demographically similar non-community schools.

**Community Schools in New Mexico.** In 2013, the Legislature adopted the Community Schools Act, which allowed any public school to be transformed into a community school. Through grassroots efforts, local community schools grew throughout New Mexico. It wasn’t until 2019 that funds were appropriated to support these schools. The 2019 legislative actions provided \$2 million in grant funding to be administered by PED, and also amended the 2013 Community Schools Act to better define community schools. Additionally, the 2019 amendments also required NMPED appoint a New Mexico Coalition for Community Schools to support implementation.

Fiscal Year	Funding – State	Funding – Federal	# of Community Schools
2019-20	\$2,000,000	N/A	29
2020-21	\$3,300,000	\$1,896,000	33
2021-22	\$5,000,000	\$1,836,622	54
2022-23	\$8,000,000	N/A	69

Source: PED

Schools are invited to apply for either a planning or implementation grant through the PED, most commonly at \$50 thousand and \$150 thousand, respectively, and have various reporting methods to track their progress and assess the current effectiveness of the community school in relation to national standards. Ideally, schools that have been awarded a planning grant will continue to apply for and receive implementation grant funding for three years, with an optional fourth year of funding which is determined by PED.

For school year 2022-2023, 69 schools received a planning or implementation community school grant award. Of these 69 schools, 48 are in the implementation phase, and 21 are in the planning phase. **Attachment A: Community Schools Act Grant Recipients** provides an overview of community schools that have received state funding since FY20. Importantly, there are additional schools across New Mexico that self-report as a community school but that are not receiving community school funding. As of December 2022, there were 39 self-reported community schools. PED has presented to the Legislature that their goal is to increase the number of community schools in New Mexico from 69 to a minimum of 100 by the 2023-24 school year.

**HM44 Reporting Requirements.** HM44 requires the task force to provide an interim report on its analyses, evaluations and initial recommendations to LESC and LFC by December 1, 2023, and

the task force must provide the final report to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2024. The final report will include the task force's findings and recommendations for statutory and other changes necessary to support and improve the state's community school strategy.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED will be required to convene the task force. While a PED agency analysis was not available for HM44, the concept and creation of this memorial was done in collaboration between PED, the Coalition for Community Schools, and LESC.

#### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**BC/eh/cf/mb**

**Attachment A: Community Schools Act Grant Recipients (State Funded)**

	<b>School Name</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	
1	<b>School Districts</b>					1
2	<b>Albuquerque Public Schools</b>					2
3	Apache Elementary School				\$50,000	3
4	Bel-Air Elementary School				\$50,000	4
5	Bellehaven Elementary School				\$50,000	5
6	Del Norte High School			\$50,000	\$150,000	6
7	Duranes Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	7
8	East San Jose Elementary School			\$50,000	\$150,000	8
9	Edward Gonzales Elementary			\$50,000	\$150,000	9
10	Eugene Field Elementary School		\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	10
11	Governor Bent Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	11
12	Hawthorne Elementary School	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$75,000	12
13	Helen Cordero Primary School			\$50,000	\$150,000	13
14	Kirtland Elementary School				\$50,000	14
15	Lavaland Elementary School				\$50,000	15
16	Los Padillas Elementary School	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$75,000	16
17	Lowell Elementary School				\$50,000	17
18	Manzano Mesa Elementary School	\$139,200	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$48,806	18
19	McKinley Middle School				\$50,000	19
20	Reginald Chavez Elementary School			\$48,937	\$150,000	20
21	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary School		\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	21
22	Truman Middle School			\$50,000		22
23	Van Buren Middle School				\$150,000	23
24	<b>Belen Public Schools</b>					24
25	La Promesa Elementary				\$44,440	25
26	<b>Cimarron Municipal Schools</b>					26
27	Eagle Nest School	\$49,500	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	27
28	<b>Cuba Independent Schools</b>					28
29	Cuba Elementary School	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	29
30	Cuba Middle School		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	30
31	Cuba High School		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	31
32	<b>Española Public Schools</b>					32
33	Carlos Vigil Middle School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	33
34	<b>Gallup-McKinley County Schools</b>					34
35	Gallup Central High/Alternative				\$50,000	35
36	<b>Hobbs Municipal Schools</b>					36
37	Southern Heights Elementary School	\$50,000				37
38	<b>Lake Arthur Municipal Schools</b>					38
39	Lake Arthur Elementary School	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		39
40	Lake Arthur Middle School	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		40
41	Lake Arthur High School	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		41
42	<b>Las Cruces Public Schools</b>					42
43	Alameda Elementary School			\$50,000		43
44	Dona Ana Elementary				\$50,000	44
45	Lynn Community Middle School	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$50,000	45
46	MacArthur Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	46

	School Name	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	
47	<b>Moriarty-Edgewood School District</b>					47
48	Moriarty Elementary School			\$50,000	\$150,000	48
49	<b>Peñasco Independent School District</b>					49
50	Peñasco Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	50
51	Peñasco High School			\$50,000	\$150,000	51
52	<b>Roswell Independent School District</b>					52
53	Mesa Middle School				\$50,000	53
54	Sierra Middle School	\$50,000		\$1	\$150,000	54
55	University High School	\$50,000			\$150,000	55
56	<b>Santa Fe Public Schools</b>					56
57	Amy Biehl Community School				\$50,000	57
58	Cesar Chavez Elementary School	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$75,000	58
59	Chaparral Elementary School				\$50,000	59
60	Kearny Elementary School			\$50,000	\$150,000	60
61	Milagro Middle School			\$50,000	\$150,000	61
62	Nina Otero Community School				\$150,000	62
63	Santa Fe High School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	63
64	<b>Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools</b>					64
65	Santa Rosa High School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	65
66	<b>Socorro</b>					66
67	Socorro High School				\$50,000	67
68	<b>Taos Municipal Schools</b>					68
69	Arroyo Del Norte Elementary				\$50,000	69
70	Ranchos De Taos Elementary School				\$50,000	70
71	Enos Garcia Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	71
72	Vista Grande High School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	72
73	<b>Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools</b>					73
74	Arrey Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	74
75	Hot Springs High School	\$50,000		\$1	\$150,000	75
76	Truth or Consequences Middle School			\$50,000		76
77	<b>Charter Schools</b>					77
78	<b>Albuquerque Public Schools</b>					78
79	Albuquerque Bilingual Academy			\$50,000	\$150,000	79
80	Albuquerque Sign Language Academy				\$150,000	80
81	ACE Leadership High School			\$50,000	\$150,000	81
82	Gordon Bernell Charter School			\$49,508	\$150,000	82
83	Mark Armijo Academy			\$50,000	\$150,000	83
84	Mountain Mahogany Community School	\$30,000	\$150,000		\$150,000	84
85	Native American Community Academy	\$50,000	\$150,000		\$150,000	85
86	Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts				\$50,000	86
87	Robert F. Kennedy Charter School	\$150,000	\$150,000		\$75,000	87
88	Siembra Leadership High School				\$50,000	88
89	South Valley Preparatory School		\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	89
90	<b>Aztec Public Schools</b>					90
91	Mosaic Academy				\$50,000	91
92	<b>Central Consolidated School District</b>					92
93	Dream Diné Charter School	\$50,000			\$150,000	93
94	<b>Gallup-McKinley County Schools</b>					94
95	Dził Dít'ooł School (DEAP)	\$50,000				95

	School Name	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	
96	<b>Las Cruces Public Schools</b>					96
97	Raices Del Saber Xinachtli Community School	\$50,000	\$150,000		\$150,000	97
98	<b>Los Lunas Public Schools</b>					98
99	School of Dreams Academy			\$50,000		99
100	<b>Silver City Consolidated Schools</b>					100
101	Aldo Leopold Charter School	\$22,000				101
102	<b>Taos Municipal Schools</b>					102
103	Anansi Charter School				\$50,000	103
104	Taos Academy Charter			\$50,000	\$150,000	104
105	Taos International School	\$13,900	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	105
106	<b>West Las Vegas</b>					106
107	Rio Gallinas Charter School				\$50,000	107
108	<b>STATEWIDE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,900,000</b>	<b>\$4,198,445</b>	<b>\$7,443,246</b>	108

<sup>1</sup> Federally funded in FY22

Source: LESC Files

**Community Schools Act Grant Recipients: Federally Funded**

	School Name	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	
1	<b>School Districts</b>					1
2	Central Consolidated Schools					2
3	Newcomb High School			\$32,623		3
4	Hobbs Municipal Schools					4
5	Southern Heights Elementary School			\$704,000		5
6	Roswell Independent School District					6
7	Sierra Middle School			\$500,000		7
8	Santa Fe Public Schools					8
9	Nina Otero Community School			\$50,000		9
10	Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools					10
11	Hot Springs High School			\$500,000		11
12	<b>Charter Schools</b>					12
13	Albuquerque Public Schools					13
14	Albuquerque Bilingual School			\$50,000		14
15	<b>STATEWIDE TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,836,623</b>		15

Source: LESC Files

Awards unavailable at time of publication.